



MOHAVE COUNTY COURTS

ANNUAL REPORT FY-2018

New Superior Courthouse and Remodel Project



With all the necessary permitting and parking agreements in place and a solicitation for construction expected sometime in October of this year, construction of the new courthouse is anticipated to begin in early 2019.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING JUDGE

Greetings:

During this past fiscal year judicial officers and staff have continued to focus their efforts on ensuring the timely delivery of justice in an impartial, innovative and professional manner. Staff have worked strategically with local service providers and other judicial partners to develop new services and programs that are both innovative in nature and designed to provide quality service to individuals working through many life challenges. These new programs not only enhance services to the public, they also help individuals make significant changes in their lifestyle. I note we have been fortunate to add a new judicial officer and staff to the court which has further enhanced the services we are able to provide. This annual report details many of the new programs that have been implemented, as well as the ongoing projects that are in place to ensure the Court provides high quality services to the citizens of Mohave County.

The new courthouse plans were finalized, plan review was completed and the plans formally approved. An intergovernmental agreement with the City of Kingman and the County was finalized that provided the necessary agreements to ensure parking requirements are in place for the use of the new building. It is anticipated that the invitation for bid for construction will be completed by the end of 2018, with the hope for ground breaking of the new building beginning in early 2019. The new courthouse will provide the courts with a state of the art facility which will improve access, increase security and provide a facility that will serve the community well for many years to come. Additionally, the remodel of the existing historic courthouse will provide a new space for the Kingman/Cerbat Justice Court, improving service to the community.

Of special recognition this past year were three judicial officers who received awards for their outstanding service to our local communities. The Honorable Barbara Brown received the Sherri Geisler Award for outstanding Justice of the Peace. The Honorable Billy Sipe received the Frank X. Gordon award from the Mohave County Bar Association. The Honorable Mitchell Kalauli was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. Each of these judges exhibited outstanding work in serving the Court and the members of the community. I also note that Deputy Director of Juvenile Services, Josh Frisby, was the recipient of this year's Presiding Judge Award.

This year's annual report also highlights many other positive programs and includes information on ongoing programs that help improve access to justice. I encourage you to read through this report to learn of the efforts that are being done to improve court processes and procedures.

The continued support of the Arizona Supreme Court, the County Board of Supervisors and County Management is critical in our efforts to accomplish the mission of the Court. I am thankful for the devoted work of the judicial officers and court staff. They are dedicated public servants who put forth their best efforts every day to help keep the courts working effectively.

Charles W. Gurtler, Jr.
Presiding Judge

SERVING THE PUBLIC

Project AIM Opens Its Doors To Youth And Families



On February 6, 2018, a new chapter in juvenile probation began when Project AIM became part of the Juvenile Justice Support Center (JJSC). The Juvenile Detention Center has been expanded to include an Education Center where youth can obtain school credits or earn their GED. Now the center includes Project AIM in the non-secured section of the Juvenile Detention Center.

Project AIM provides opportunities for pro-social growth. Additionally, it provides training and skill building to prepare youth to succeed in the workplace and beyond. AIM also works to improve family cohesiveness through family engagement and discussions, as well as provides educational support to help youth succeed in school. To

make these things possible, the Probation Department has partnered with outside agencies to provide services, including: AZ@Work, Arizona Youth Partnership (AZYPP) and PSA Behavioral Health. In addition to these partners, AIM also brings in different agencies and individuals to provide pro-social activities such as, recovery based speakers, educational representatives and healthy relationship trainings.

The youth are offered transportation and dinner is served each evening. The Probation Department hired two full time Youth Care Workers, James Owens and Vanessa Rosales, to monitor and supervise the juveniles. When not in AIM, James and Vanessa are assisting with the registrar duties in the classroom and proctoring GED exams. This is truly a collaborative effort within the JJSC.

3rd Annual Superhero 5K Run/Walk and Kids Dash



Our 3rd Annual Superhero 5K and Kids Dash was held on April 7th, 2018, with beautiful spring like weather! Children, families and adults dressed in their favorite superhero costumes like Wonder Woman, Black Panther, Wolverine, Batman, and The Hulk. The Kids Dash kicked off the event with kids ages 1-12 running to the finish line to earn their Superhero Medal. In the 5K run/walk course 80 completed the race. Trophies were given to the winners of the 5k including age category winners.

The proceeds from this event went to the CASA Council of Mohave County nearly \$5,600.00 was raised. The Council is the fundraising arm of the CASA Organization which advocates in court for our children in foster care. Our children have many needs which the State can no longer afford such as Boys and Girls Club, Parks and Rec programs, summer camps, equine therapy, athletic fees, electronic devices for developmentally delayed children, etc. These are just some of the many requests the Council helps fulfill for the kids.

SERVING THE PUBLIC

7th Annual Northwest Arizona Symposium on Infant and Toddler Mental Health



The Mohave County Superior Court Team hosted their 7th Annual Northwest Arizona Symposium on Infant and Toddler Mental Health on April 10-11, 2018. The event was free to all attendees and funded by Arizona's First Things First. Over 330 professionals from all across Arizona and reaching into California and Utah gathered at the Aquarius Resort in Laughlin, Nevada for two days of workshops, keynotes speakers and networking opportunities with one another.

There were two notable keynote speakers: William Kellibrew IV is a global advocate for human, civil, children and victims' rights. His story has been featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show, CNN, MSNBC, The Washington Post, the Daily Beast and a host of prominent media outlets around the world. William credits his grandmother and the many responsible adults and youth who mentored and supported him for his survival during his toughest challenges. Mike Veny has managed to overcome a lifetime of mental health challenges to become a professional drummer and one of America's leading mental health speakers. His advocacy work has been featured on ABC, NBC and CBS News. He is also a writer for Corporate Wellness Magazine, HealthCentral.com, and delivered a TEDx Talk titled "Mental Illness is an Asset." Both Kellibrew and Veny spoke of their personal experiences with early childhood trauma and journey to resilience and helping others achieve success. In addition to the keynote speakers there were twenty-eight workshops to choose from with nationally and state recognized presenters.

Criminal History Improvement Project

The Lake Havasu Consolidated Court applied for and was awarded a National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) grant. The grant is being utilized to manually go through approximately 25,000 open criminal cases. The nine clerks working on the project will be ensuring that all case dispositions are reported to the Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZDPS) and all Domestic Violence offenses are appropriately flagged in the case management system and public access to records.

The project commenced in March, 2018 and is scheduled to continue through March 2019. The court will apply for a second NCHIP grant if needed. The goal is to have 100% of applicable cases reported to the Department of Public Safety and 100% of Domestic Violence cases flagged. Once the project is complete there will be consistency among the information received from the Court, AZDPS and Public Access.

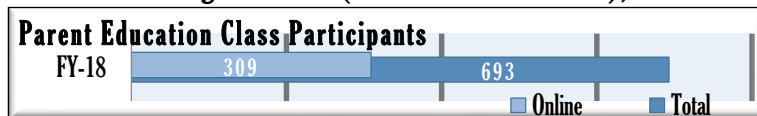
DELIVERING TIMELY JUSTICE

Electronic Filing (E-filing) Technology Enhancements

Court IT built a system that automatically notifies Judges and Judicial Assistants of new electronic filings within 30 minutes of the document or case being filed within the Mohave County system. The introduction of civil E-filing provided a critical step in reaching out to our community; however, it also introduced a change in our case flow processing that needed to be addressed. The Mohave County Court IT Department quickly created a solution by developing an internal web application saving the Judges and Judicial Assistants time by easily viewing and searching all E-filing activity.

Mediation Services

The Mediation Department continued to provide exceptional service to local citizens with matters before the court. It is noted that in addition to the 150 Full or Partial Agreements (refer to charts below), another 68 matters reached agreement during the mediation, however, due to a lack



of follow through by the parties that matters ultimately had to be referred back to court. Staff continue to support the juvenile dependency process by assisting with mandatory pre-hearing conferences and assisting with data entry in the juvenile case management system.

Implementation of Juvenile Mediator Services

A new Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program was implemented to improve timeliness of justice. Upon entering a denial of the petition, the parties are referred to mediation in an attempt to reach a non-trial resolution. Fifty-two percent of the cases referred to mediation have been completely resolved and thirty-two percent have resulted in partial resolution, significantly improving the court's efficiency.

Mohave County Criminal Reporting

Mohave County Superior Court reports criminal history information on all felony convictions to the Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZDPS). There has been a recent push throughout Arizona to report criminal dispositions electronically so that law enforcement has instant access to that information. One reason is that in 2017, only about 89% of dispositions were successfully reported. Through a collaborative effort between Mohave County's reporting agencies, the Superior Court has successfully submitted 99% of our dispositions electronically since January 1, 2018. Mohave County Superior Court has the highest rate of electronic disposition reporting for all the Arizona rural counties — an impressive statistic!

COURT ACCESS, FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE

New Superior Court Commissioner

The Mohave County Courts welcomed a new Judicial Officer shortly after the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2018. July 2018, the Honorable Kenneth L. Gregory was appointed as a full-time Court Commissioner for the Superior Court. Judge Gregory said “I’m honored to have been appointed as a full-time Commissioner and to return to work with the many fine Judges and staff members at the Superior Court”. Judge Gregory was appointed to fill the newly created third full-time Court Commissioner position.



Courtroom Evidence Presentation and Audio Systems Upgrades

The Court IT Department’s most recent accomplishments place our small department at the very top of Court Technology Departments around the state and country. With the possibility of a new Superior Courthouse on the horizon, the Court IT Department has focused the last several months on training, designing and implementing courtroom evidence presentation systems that once implemented will save the County over \$50,000 per courtroom total of \$350,000 in savings for the new Courthouse alone. This approach of moving advanced audio video system implementations in house, not only provides the initial cost savings of outsourcing these services, but also eliminates the annual maintenance cost of over \$6,000 per year, per courtroom, as well as the need for staff on site that can maintain these complex systems.

Server Refresh / System Upgrades

Mohave County recognizes the need to keep technology current and refreshed. This past year several major network, server and video systems were replaced with newer and smarter technology. This type of refresh program allows the Courts in Mohave County to stay current with advanced technology that provides greater reliability to the services we offer.

Electronic Filing (E-filing)

Since December 1, 2017, E-filing has been available. Consequently, 64% of all civil cases have been initiated through the E-file vendors. Mohave County Superior Court is ready to move forward with being a pilot court for an upgrade to the Courts’ case management system which will include the platform functionality to begin receiving some electronically filed documents in family law, probate, and guardianship case types in the near future.

ENGAGED STAFF

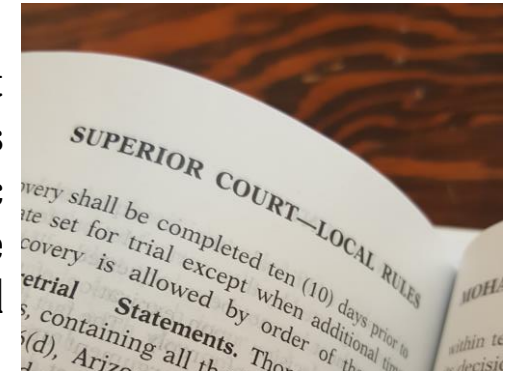
Juvenile Drug Court Retreat



Drug Court team members, probation officers, judges and treatment providers gathered to celebrate the work being done across the County. Attendees received training on Motivational Interviewing and the Culture of Shame and Poverty. These retreats help inspire and motivate team members and recognizes the contribution that each of the members bring to drug court. It is a positive networking experience for everyone and links the three independent drug courts together in an atmosphere of cooperation, team work and educational growth.

Superior Court Local Court Rules Updates

The Superior Court, with cooperation and input from key stakeholders, updated the Local Civil Court Rules to ensure compliance with the State of Arizona Rules of Civil Procedures and to reflect procedures and changes in the court process. The proposed changes to the Local Civil Rules were posted for public comments then forwarded to the Arizona Supreme Court for final approval. The Local Criminal Rules are currently being revised with input from local attorneys and staff of the court. The next targeted Local Rules to be reviewed will be Local Domestic Relations Rules.



Arizona Court Leadership Training

Two juvenile probation officers from the Mohave County Probation Department have graduated from the Arizona Court Supervisor (ACS) Program Emily Snay and Natalie Eggers. With four more graduates on the horizon; Sara Colbert, Christina Spurlock, Nancy Tharpe and Patty Zirkle whom are currently enrolled in the ACS Program and are scheduled to complete their classes by early 2019. Three more court staff have graduated from the second tier, Arizona Court Managers (ACM) Program. The second-level program is part of the Arizona Court Leadership Institute program. Participants must complete a minimum of one class each year and complete six National Center for State Courts Institute for Court Management courses and three Arizona-specific AZ Plus courses.

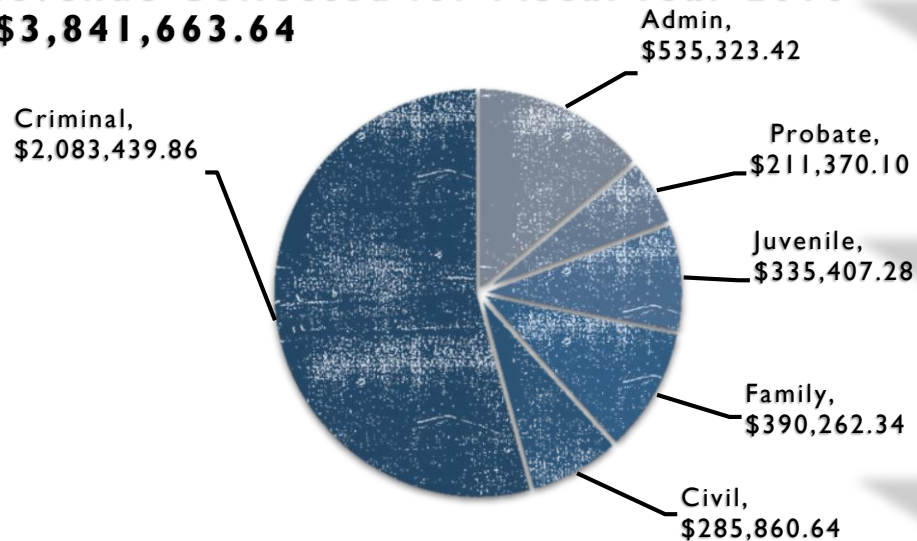
All classes are offered through the Court Leadership Institute of Arizona and AOC Education Services.

COURT STATISTICS

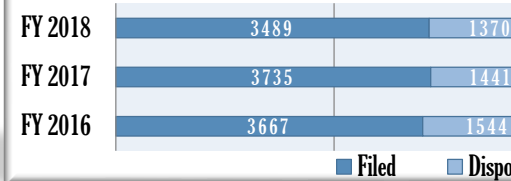
Superior Court Statistics

Revenue Collected for Fiscal Year 2018

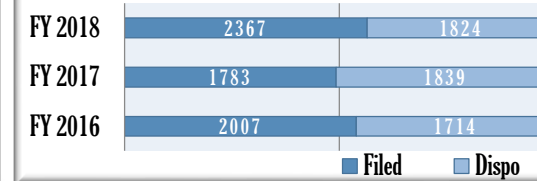
\$3,841,663.64



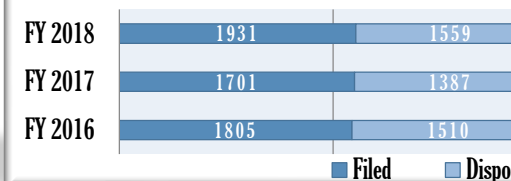
Superior Court Administrative Case Type



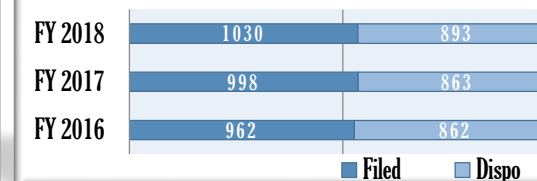
Superior Court Criminal Case Type



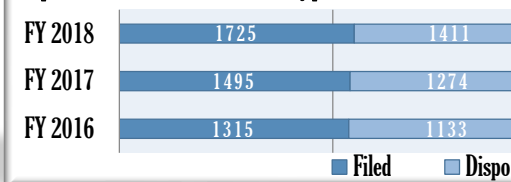
Superior Court Family Law Case Type



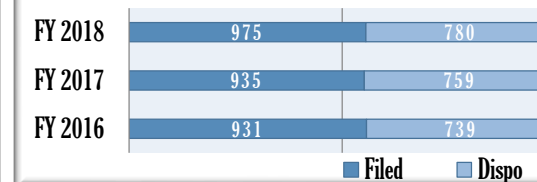
Superior Court Juvenile Case Type



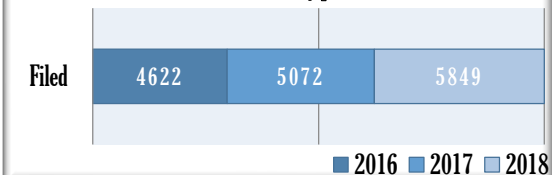
Superior Court Civil Case Type



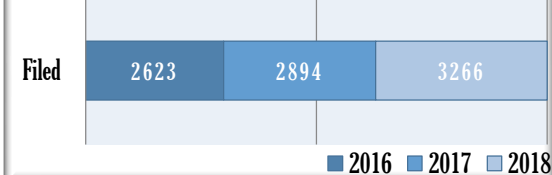
Superior Court Probate Case Type



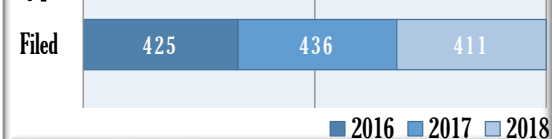
Justice Court Civil Case Type



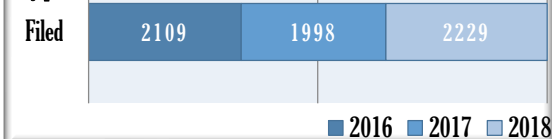
Justice Court Felony Case Type



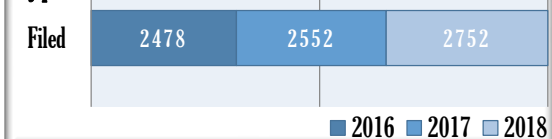
Justice Court Search Warrant Case Type



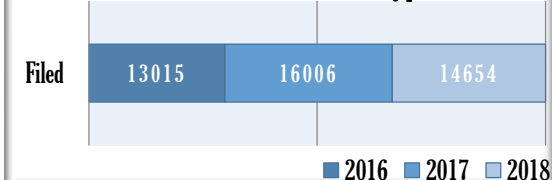
Justice Court Criminal Traffic Case Type



Justice Court Misdemeanor Case Type

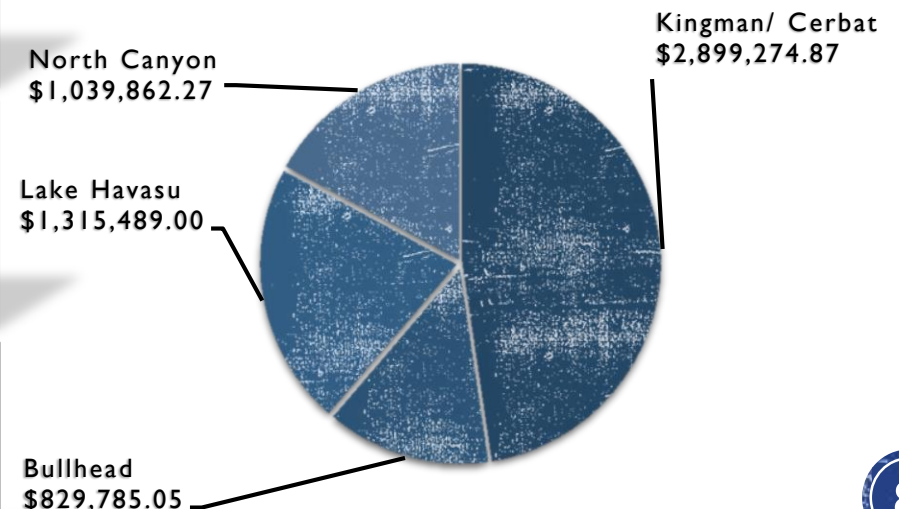


Justice Court Civil Traffic Case Type



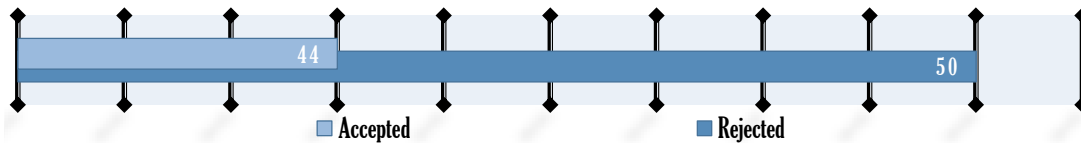
Justice Court Statistics Revenue Collected for Fiscal Year 2018

\$6,084,411.19



PROBATION STATISTICS

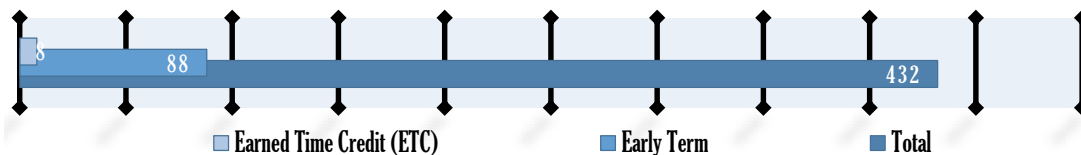
Drug Court Stats, 16 Graduates



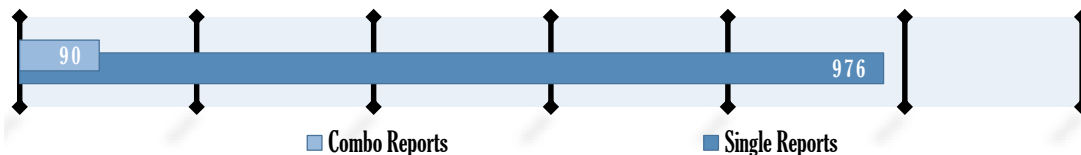
Unsuccessful Probation Completions



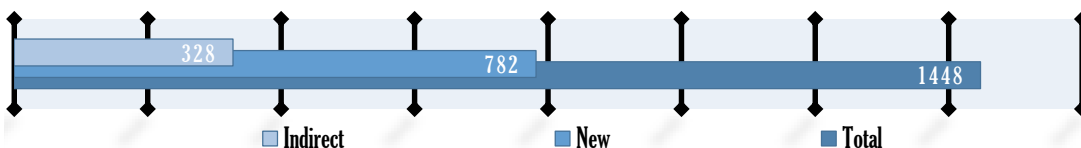
Successful Probation Completions



Pre-Sentencing Investigation (PSI) Reports



Standard Probation



Intensive Probation Supervision (IPS)

New IPS Cases: 15

Intensive (IPS): 40

Number of Juvenile Complaints: 1,292

Number of Juveniles Referred: 837

Number of youth placed on probation: 331

Number of Juveniles committed to ADJC: 12

Community Restitution Service (CRS)

Hours of CRS completed: 14,807/hrs

Valued at \$155,473.50 @\$10.50/ per hr

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH

Community Advisory Board (CAB)



Kingman CAB awarded grants to: Kingman Healing Hooves, funding a four day therapeutic trip for a child participant; Kingman High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), funding dress clothes for competitions; Kingman Police Department's Explorer Program, funding much needed equipment; WACOG Head Start Program, funding learning aids; and White Cliff Middle School's Sea Camp, paying for lunch and dinner for the students traveling to Sea Camp in California.

Bullhead City CAB awarded a grant to Camp Mohave Elementary School Aga Cook's 5th grade class for a sound system.

The sound system was first used for a Mock Trial based on the story of the "Three Little Pigs". It was a great learning experience for the students. Additional grant funds were awarded to River Valley High School for college planners for all incoming Seniors. The planners assist youth in planning for college, careers and employment after high school.



Lake Havasu City CAB, under the chairmanship of Lauren Farschler, allocated funding to the Lake Havasu City Police Department to send two (2) officers to NOVA certification training in Orem, UT. Funding was also awarded to Interagency Council of Lake Havasu City for the Brave Art Program.

The mission of NOVA. is: "Nurturing youth to seek out positive Opportunities, internalize good Values, and to accept Accountability for their choices in life. NOVA assists parents, families and communities in protecting youth from the potentially devastating effects of illegal drugs, violence and negative media exposure." LHCPD is the only law enforcement agency statewide currently using NOVA.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH

Juvenile Health and Wellness Court (JHAWC)

The Juvenile Division of the Mohave County Probation Department began a series of discussions in 2017 with our community stakeholders to determine the need for a Juvenile Mental Health Court. Mental health providers unanimously agreed to partner with our Courts in the formation of a Health and Wellness Court to serve those youth with mental health needs and challenges. From those conversations, a Juvenile Health and Wellness Court (JHAWC) was born in Mohave County. The goal of our Health and Wellness Court is to assist juveniles in finding and attending community-based services to stabilize and maintain sound mental health to reinforce acceptable behaviors within the community among our youth. To properly address their mental health needs, the JHAWC works in collaboration with the juvenile justice system and mental health professionals.

Veteran's Treatment Court

Since the Lake Havasu City Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) was awarded the SAMHSA grant last fiscal year, the VTC has provided progress reports and adhered to all budgetary restraints. Annually, the VTC must request approval to receive next year's funding based on the programs ability to meet goals and objectives. This grant unified the Lake Havasu City VTC and the Kingman VTC regionally. The grant benefits Veterans participating in VTC by providing additional services to current program participants, as well as participants who are ineligible to receive local VA treatment services. Services have been expanded to serve Veterans in Justice and Superior Court as well. The VTC promotes sobriety, recovery and stability throughout treatment. To date, 240 Veterans have been admitted into the VTC, 111 have graduated from the program and 72 of these Veterans are still being monitored and treated by the Courts.



National Adoption Day

Mohave County Superior Court celebrated National Adoption Day, a collective national effort to raise awareness of more than 110,000 children in foster care waiting for permanent and loving families. Mohave County Superior Court finalized 26 adoptions during National Adoption Day celebrations in Kingman and Bullhead City!

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH



First Recipient of the Presiding Judge Award

Deputy Director of Juvenile Services, Josh Frisby's knowledge of the juvenile justice system, years of service to Mohave County Probation and his loyalty to the mission of the courts makes him one of the Court's most valued ambassadors. His professional demeanor is above reproach and is a model for others to emulate. Under Josh's direction an in-house clinician was hired. In addition, Josh was instrumental in restructuring our local Community Advisory Boards (CAB). And in August, Josh put together a team of officers to develop an Evening Reporting Center at our local detention facility.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer Appreciation

CASA of Mohave County continues to recruit new volunteers to serve as advocates for children and find ways to help support the children who are part of the court's dependency process. The CASA volunteers are a big part of the program so the staff each year hold a Celebration of Appreciation for all the hard work the volunteers do on behalf of kids in care. This past year the celebration took place in May and 22 of the 40 CASA Advocates attended the Hawaiian festivities. Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, Honorable Rick Williams welcomed the CASA's as well as expressed his appreciation for their dedication and commitment and service to the courts. This past fiscal year there were over 66 cases with 132 children that were served by CASA Advocates. These Advocates not only donated over 5,265 hours of their time but they drove over 46,439 miles to serve these vulnerable children in care. This year, Kingman CASA Advocate Joan Cates-Jacks, Lake Havasu CASA Advocate Jason Duncan and Bullhead City CASA Advocate Sharon Taylor were chosen as CASA of the Year and received plaques for their unceasing commitment to improving the lives of the children of Mohave County.

Veteran's Stand Down

The Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council (JAVC) a Non-Profit Organization, conducted its annual Veteran's Stand Down on March 2nd -3rd, 2018, in Bullhead City. Mohave County Courts were onsite to provide Veterans with the assistance they needed. The Veterans Court assisted Veterans in quashing warrants and scheduling hearing dates for the Veterans in attendance. Together, the Veterans Court and the Superior Court helped 30-40 Veterans. This year the JAVC served 268 Veterans with the assistance of 37 vendors and 243 volunteers and vendors.



STAFF AWARDS



Sherri Geisler Award for Outstanding Justice of the Peace

Honorable Barbara Brown was the 2017 recipient of the Sherri Geisler Award for Outstanding Justice of the Peace. She has worked in Mohave County's court system for nearly three decades. She has been with the North Canyon Justice Court and Colorado City Magistrate Court since 1989. She was appointed City Magistrate for Colorado City in 2004 and Justice of the Peace in 2011. She continues to serve in both positions in the North Canyon Consolidated Court.



Frank X. Gordon Award

On April 19, 2018, at its annual Bar meeting, the Mohave County Bar Association awarded the prestigious Frank X. Gordon Award to the Honorable Billy K. Sipe, Jr. The Frank X. Gordon Award is given for outstanding achievement in the area of the practice of law. Named in honor of the former Mohave County Superior Court Judge and Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, recipients of the award demonstrate a commitment to improving the practice of law and exemplifying exceptional moral character.



Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame

On October 27, 2017, the Honorable Mitchell Kalauli, Lake Havasu City Magistrate, was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. Judge Kalauli was instrumental in establishing the first rural Veterans Treatment Court in Arizona in 2013, as well as mentoring officials in Kingman, Bullhead City and La Paz County to establish their Veterans Courts. The Lake Havasu City Veterans Resource Team is being used as a model for Veteran's organization collaboration in rural Arizona communities.

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF ARIZONA MOHAVE COUNTY

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